Chapter 8 – The Legislative Branch  
  
1. Functions of the Texas legislature include all of the following, except   
a. enacting legislation.   
b. proposing constitutional amendments.   
c. appointing state judges.   
d. removing executive and judicial officials.   
  
2. Legislative redistricting for both houses in Texas routinely occurs   
a. every even-numbered years.   
b. every odd-numbered years.   
c. the first odd-numbered year in a decade.   
d. the first even-numbered year in a decade.   
  
3. A vacancy in the Texas House or Senate arising during a term is filled by   
a. the chamber’s presiding officer.   
b. the Legislative Redistricting Board.   
c. a special election.   
d. governor’s appointment.   
  
4. Which of the following is not true regarding special sessions of the Texas legislature?   
a. They may only meet for 30 days.   
b. They have their agenda set by the governor.   
c. They may only be called by the governor.   
d. They are limited to three per year.   
  
5. The federal court case that applied the doctrine of “one-man, one-vote” to Texas was   
a. Reynolds v. Sims (1964).   
b. Lells v. Kavenaugh (1991).   
c. Kilgarlin v. Martin (1965).   
d. Ruiz v. Estelle (1980).   
  
6. The U.S. Supreme Court found in Reynolds v. Sims (1964) that   
a. legislative districts of bicameral state legislatures must have substantially equal populations.   
b. only the lower house of state legislatures must have substantially equal populations.   
c. all states must have bicameral legislatures.   
d. some term limits for members of Congress violates the U.S. Constitution.   
  
7. Educationally, most members of the Texas legislature have   
a. attended institutions of higher learning.   
b. only completed high school.   
c. received post-graduate degrees.   
d. attended private, not public school.   
  
8. Compared to legislators in other states, those in Texas receive   
a. low pay, low allowances, and meager retirements.   
b. average pay, high allowances, and meager retirements.   
c. low pay, reasonable allowances, and generous retirements.   
d. high pay, low allowances, and generous retirements.   
  
9. Which of the following is not a power accorded to the lieutenant governor by the Texas Constitution or Senate rules?   
a. Voting on all bills before the Senate   
b. Recognizing senators who wish to speak   
c. Appointing the chairs of all Senate committees   
d. Referring all bills to standing committees   
  
10. Which of the following statements is true regarding the Texas legislature?   
a. It does not recognize the party affiliation of its members.   
b. It has no party organization—not even informal caucuses.   
c. It is dominated by the Democratic Party, with no Republican influence.   
d. It has Democratic and Republican caucuses that are increasingly important.   
  
11. The legislature may require reports from state agencies under a procedure known as   
a. auditing.   
b. consultation.   
c. oversight.   
d. gerrymandering.   
  
12. Most of the governor’s board and commission appointments to head state agencies must be submitted and approved by   
a. at least two-thirds of the Senate.   
b. the relevant Senate committee.   
c. a majority of the House of Representatives.   
d. at least a simple majority vote of the senators.   
  
13. A member of the Texas legislature would be immune from adverse judicial action if he   
a. libels a citizen during a speech at his hometown Rotary Club.   
b. is arrested for intoxicated driving while the legislature is in session.   
c. is arrested for causing an automobile accident during the session.   
d. slanders in a speech during a legislative proceeding.   
  
14. After its first reading in the House of Representatives, a bill is   
a. debated and voted upon.   
b. referred to the appropriate committee.   
c. forwarded to the Senate for its action.   
d. referred to the House Rules Committee.   
  
15. Representatives occasionally engage in lengthy debates on bills, including bills that they do not oppose. This delaying action is called   
a. a filibuster.   
b. cloture.   
c. chubbing.   
d. politics as usual.   
  
16. The Texas Senate has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to control the flow of bills from standing committees to the floor.   
a. one calendar committee   
b. no calendar committees   
c. two calendar committees   
d. our blocker committees   
  
17. A two-thirds vote on the floor of the Texas Senate is required for any bill to be considered due to the use of a   
a. blocking bill.   
b. discharge petition.   
c. super quorum.   
d. friendly filibuster.  
  
18. A senator can attempt to delay or impede a bill’s passage by speaking on the floor as long as physically possible, which is called   
a. filibustering.   
b. gerrymandering.   
c. invoking cloture.   
d. senatorial privilege.   
  
19. When the House and Senate pass a bill with different language in each version,   
a. the bill will die because further action cannot occur until the two agree.   
b. the bill will go to a House-Senate conference committee.   
c. one chamber will have to accept the language of the other.   
d. the governor will indicate a preference for one chamber’s bill.   
  
20. If the governor vetoes a bill after the legislature has adjourned,   
a. the bill will die and cannot be overridden.   
b. the bill may go to a House-Senate conference committee.   
c. the legislature will call itself into an override session.   
d. the bill will go on a referendum override ballot. 